

PENYEBAB KELENGAHAN DI DALAM DIAGNOSIS HILANG PENDENGARAN DI KALANGAN KANAK-KANAK DI MALAYSIA

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Kajian retrospektif berasaskan borang soal-selidik ini bertujuan untuk mengenalpasti umur diagnosis hilang pendengaran di kalangan kanak-kanak di Malaysia dan membandingkan puratanya dengan saranan umur diagnosis oleh Joint Committee on Infant Hearing bagi menentukan sama ada wujudnya kelengahan di dalam umur diagnosis. Bahagian kedua kajian ini memfokus kepada pengenalpastian penyebab-penyebab utama kelengahan di dalam umur diagnosis. Survei menggunakan kaedah pos telah digunakan dan sebanyak 215 borang soalselidik yang telah dijawab dan mewakili subjek dari negeri-negeri seluruh Semenanjung Malaysia telah dianalisis. Kajian ini mendapati purata umur masalah pendengaran disyaki ialah 26.80 ± 19.89 bulan manakala purata umur pengesahan diagnosis ialah 33.55 ± 20.43 bulan, yang bermakna terdapat kelengahan yang signifikan di dalam umur pengesahan diagnosis hilang pendengaran. Kajian ini telah mengenalpasti tiadanya kesedaran di kalangan ibu bapa mengenai masalah hilang pendengaran serta kegagalan doktor perubatan untuk mengenalpasti masalah pendengaran dan merujuk kes-kes tersebut bagi penilaian audiologikal sebagai penyebab-penyebab utama masalah kelengahan di dalam umur diagnosis. Kajian ini menyarankan pengimplementasian program saringan pendengaran bayi baru lahir serta pendidikan berterusan ibu bapa dan doktor perubatan sebagai langkah-langkah untuk mengurangkan purata umur diagnosis hilang pendengaran pada kanak-kanak di Malaysia.

CAUSES OF DELAY IN THE DIAGNOSIS OF HEARING IMPAIRMENT AMONGST CHILDREN IN MALAYSIA

This questionnaire based retrospective study aims to identify the age of diagnosis of hearing impairment amongst children in Malaysia and compare the average with the recommendation by the Joint Committee on Infant Hearing and to determine whether there is a delay in the age of diagnosis. The second part of the study focuses on the causes of the delay in the age of diagnosis of hearing impairment. The postal survey method was used and a total of 215 replied questionnaires were analysed representing subjects from the whole of Peninsular Malaysia. The study found the average age of suspicion to be 26.80 ± 19.89 months and the age of diagnosis of hearing impairment to be 33.55 ± 20.43 months, which means there is a significant delay in the diagnosis of hearing impairment. This study identified the ignorance of parents about hearing impairment and the failure of medical doctors to identify hearing impairment among children early and refer them for proper audiological assessment as the main contributing factor in the cause of delay in the age of diagnosis. This study recommends the implementation of universal newborn hearing screening as well as continuous education of parents and medical personnel as a means to reduce the average age of diagnosis among children in Malaysia.

Selanduray, S. 2003. Causes of Delay in the Diagnosis of Hearing Impairment amongst Children in Malaysia. Bachelor of Audiology Thesis. National University of Malaysia.